

Message Text

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE SECDEF INFO USNATO MOSCOW

BONN LONDON USNMR SHAPE USCINCEUR OCT 31 FROM VIENNA

REPATED TO YOU: QUOTE:

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SOVIET OPENING STATEMENT

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BEGIN SUMMARY: TEXT OF OPENING STATEMENT BY SOVIET
REP KHLESTOV AT OCTOBER 31 PLENARY FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. WE ARE GATHERED IN THIS HALL TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. IN THE NAME OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION I SHOULD LIKE FIRST OF ALL TO WELCOME THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER STATES-PARTICIPANTS IN THE TALKS, TOGETHER WITH WHOM WE FACE MUCH WORK SO THAT OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO WORK OUT FUTURE AGREEMENTS ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES IN THE CENTER OF EUROPE MAY ACHIEVE SUCCESS. I SHOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE OTHER DELEGATIONS IN EXPRESSING OUR THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA FOR THE HOSPITALITY IT HAS SHOWN AND FOR THE CREATION OF FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. OUR NEGOTIATIONS ARE A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR EUROPE AND FOR THE WHOLE SITUATION IN THE WORLD. THEY ARE BEGINNING IN THE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF THE TURNING POING OF A PROTRACTED PERIOD OF TENSION TOWARDS DETENTE AND BUSINESSLIKE COOPERATION. THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OF STATES OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS IS RECEIVING NOW AN EVEN WIDER RECOGNITION. THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE US ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR AND THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS, AND THE WELL KNOWN TREATIES AMONG THE USSR, THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC, THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND THE GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC, THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT ON WEST BERLIN AND THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE USSR AND FRANCE ARE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THIS POSITIVE PROCESS.

3. THE EMERGING DETENTE IN RELATIONS AMONG EUROPEAN STATES IS REFLECTED IN THE CONVOCATION OF THE CONFERENCE ON QUESTIONS OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE. THIS CONFERENCE WAS CALLED TO STRENGTHEN SUCH PRINCIPLES AS THE INTEGRITY OF THE TERRITORY OF ALL THE STATES OF EUROPE, THE INVIOABILITY OF THEIR FRONTIERS, THE NON-USE OF FORCE OR THE THREAT OF FORCE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES, NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ONE ANOTHER AND THE DEVELOPMENT ON SUCH A BASIS OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS COOPERATION IN VARIOUS SPHERES. THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERS THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF ASSURING RELIABLE SECURITY IN EUROPE,

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POLITICAL DETENTE ON THIS CONTINENT MUST BE SUPPLEMENTED BY MEASURES OF MILITARY DETENTE. THIS IS WHAT WE SEE AS THE GOAL OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS.

4. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE EUROPEAN - AND NOT ONLY THE EUROPEAN - CONTINENT, THE TASK OF REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS, TASK OF DISARMAMENT, HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE PRACTICAL LEVEL. FOR THE FIRST TIME THE REPRESENTATIVES

OF A LARGE GROUP OF COUNTRIES ARE SITTING AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE TOGETHER TO WORK OUT CONSTRUCTIVE MEASURES FOR MUTUAL REDUCTIONS OF THEIR ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. IT IS A SECRET TO NO ONE THAT PRECISELY IN THIS REGION OF THE GLOBE, WHICH TWICE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY HAS BEEN THE LOCUS OF WORLD WARS WHICH BROUGHT COLOSSAL DESTRUCTION OF MATERIAL TREASURES AND DEATH TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, THERE ARE CONCENTRATED THE MOST POWERFUL LAND AND AIR FORCES AND A GREAT QUANTITY OF CONVENTIONAL AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND MILITARY TECHNOLOGY IS DEPLOYED.

5. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE SOVIET UNION, TOGETHER WITH OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF EUROPE, HAS REPEATEDLY MADE PROPOSALS IN THE POSTWAR PERIOD AIMED AT REDUCING ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT. THE CESSATION OF THE ARMS RACE AND THE REALIZATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES OF DISARMAMENT ARE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS, ADOPTED AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS OF THE CPSU, OF THE PROGRAM OF PEACE WHICH AS A RESULT IS BEING CONSEQUENTLY BROUGHT TO LIFE BY OUR PARTY AND THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS THEREFORE GIVES US DEEP SATISFACTION.

6. WE HAVE COME TO VIENNA WITH THE FIRM INTENTION OF DEVOTING MAXIMUM EFFORT TO GIVING THE NEGOTIATIONS A BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE CHARACTER AND TO WORK OUT PRATICAL MEASURES FOR THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS.

7. OUR NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT BEGINNING IN A VACUUM. USEFUL WORK HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE AT PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS IN VIENNA. A SERIES OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS WAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED AND AGREED UPON BY THE DELEGATION OF NINETEEN STATES: THE SUBJECT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS DEFINED AS MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED UNCLASSIFIED

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FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN CENTRAL EUROPE; THE CIRCLE OF STATES PARTICIPATING IN FUTURE AGREEMENTS ON THE REDUCTION OF TROOPS AND ARMAMENTS WAS FIXED, NAMELY BELGIUM, GREAT BRITAIN, THE GDR, CANADA, LUXEMBOURG, THE NETHERLANDS, POLAND, THE USSR, THE US, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA; THE AREA OF FUTURE REDUCTIONS WAS DELIMITED. WE CONSIDER AS PREVIOUSLY OTHER EUROPEAN STATES INTERESTED IN THIS MIGHT ALSO TAKE PART IN THE EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEM TO BE CONSIDERED BY US.

8. ALSO IMPORTANT IS THE UNDERSTANDING ACHIEVED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONSULTATIONS THAT CONCRETE MEASURES FOR THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE MUST BE WORKED OUT AND IMPLEMENTED SO THAT IN ALL RESPECTS AND AT ANY MOMENT THEY CORRESPOND TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLE OF

UNDIMINISHED SECURITY TO ANY SIDE. THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE PREPARATORY CONSULTATIONS CREATED GOOD PRECONDITIONS FOR GOAL-ORIENTED PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM BEFORE US.

9. THE APPROACH OF THE SOVIET UNION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE WAS PRESENTED IN THE SPEECH OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF CP OF THE SOVIET UNION, L.I. BREZHNEV ON OCTOBER 26 AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE PEACE LOVING FORCES IN MOSCOW.

10. QUOTE. OUR POSITION, DELCARED L.I. BREZHNEV, IS CLEAR AND UNDERSTANDABLE. WE CONSIDER THAT ONE MUST AGREE ON A REDUCTION IN AN ALREADY DEFINED REGION OF CENTRAL EUROPE OF FOREIGN AS WELL AS OF NATIONAL LAND AND AIR FORCES OF STATES-PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE DOING THIS THE SECURITY OF ANY ONE SIDE SHOULD NOT SUFFER NOR SHOULD ANY ONE OF THEM GAIN AN ADVANTAGE AT THE EXPENSE OF ANOTHER. IT SEEMS, ONE ALSO HAS TO ADMIT THAT UNITS EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR ARMS SHOULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO REDUCTION.

11. HOW ACTUALLY TO CARRY OUT THE REDUCTION, WHAT METHOD TO USE - BE IT A REDUCTION BY EQUAL PERCENTAGES OR BY EQUAL NUMBERS - THIS REMAINS FOR THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE FUTURE REDUCTION SHOULD NOT DISTURB THE EXISTING RELATIONSHIP
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OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT AS A WHOLE. IF ANYONE SHOULD TRY TO VIOLATE THIS PRINCIPLE THEN THE WHOLE QUESTION WILL BECOME BUT AN APPLE OF DISCORD AND THE SUBJECT OF ENDLESS DISPUTES.

12. HOW SOON COULD ONE START THE ACTUAL REDUCTION OF FORCES AND OF ARMAMENTS - THIS SHOULD ALSO BE AGREED UPON IN VIENNA. THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE READY TO TAKE REAL STEPS IN THIS RESPECT ALREADY IN 1975. IN THE NEAR FUTURE ONE COULD CONCLUDE A CONCRETE AGREEMENT TO THIS EFFECT. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE A NEW STEP TOWARD IMPROVING THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN EUROPE, IT WOLD HELP TO IMPROVE ON THIS CONTINENT AN ATMOSPHERE OF TRUST, GOODWILL AND PEACEFUL COOPERATION. END QUOTE.

13. WE WILL HAVE TO EXAMINE AN INVOLVED COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS, WE ARE HOWEVER DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT IF ALL STATES-PARTICIPANTS IN FUTURE AGREEMENTS WILL SHOW REALISM AND READINESS TO COOPERATE FOR THE SAKE OF STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY OF EUROPEAN STATES, THEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET FRUITFUL RESULTS. THE SOVIET DELEGATION, ON ITS PART, WILL STRIVE TO WORK OUT CONCRETE SOLUTIONS DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND WE ARE READY TO WORK

IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH DELEGATIONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO
ACHIEVE THIS IMPORTANT GOAL. END OF SOVIET PRESENTATION.HUMES
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